

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANILA 09104 011256Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6553

UNCLAS MANILA 09104

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, RP (DAHLGREN, DANA)
SUBJECT: EXTENDED VISIT OF AMCITS TO MINDANAO

REF: STATE 133754

1. EMBASSY HAS SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT OF DANA DAHLGREN FOR ONE YEAR IN COTABATO CITY. SINCE THE BREAKDOWN OF THE MINDANAO CEASEFIRE IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1977, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE COTABATO AREA AND IN THE CITY ITSELF. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS KIDNAPPINGS OF CIVILIANS BY "TERRORISTS" WHO MAY BE EITHER MEMBERS OF THE MNLF OR LOCAL BANDITS. MANILA BELIEVES ROTARY INTERNATIONAL SHOULD BE ADVISED AGAINST PLACEMENT OF THE STUDENT IN COTABATO CITY.

2. POST FORESEES NO UNUSUAL DIFFICULTIES WITH PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS IN CAGAYAN DE ORO AND DAVAO CITY ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE IT. ALTHOUGH BOTH ARE IN MINDANAO, EMBASSY HAS NO REPORTS OF UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS. AT THIS TIME ONLY WESTERN MINDANAO IS CONSIDERED UNSAFE. HOWEVER, IT IS NOTED THAT THE STUDENTS MAY WISH TO TRAVEL TO OTHER PARTS OF THE AREA.

3. THE EMBASSY CURRENTLY RESTRICTS BOTH OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL TRAVEL TO THE REGION AND ATTEMPTS TO DISCOURAGE UNOFFICIAL AMERICAN TRAVELERS AS WELL. THE FOLLOWING AREAS
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ARE RESTRICTED EXCEPT FOR THE MOST URGENT OFFICIAL RPT
OFFICIAL TRAVEL: LANA O NORTE, LANA O SUR, MAGUINDANAO,
SULTAN KUDARAT, NORTH COTABATO, SULU, BASILAN, TAWI-TAWI,
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR. ALSO SPARSELY SET-
TLED AREAS ALONG THE COASTLINE OF CAGAYAN, ISABELA AND
AURORA SUB-PROVINCE OF QUEZON PROVINCE ON THE ISLAND OF
LUZON ARE RESTRICTED AS IS NORTHEASTERN SAMAR IN THE VISA-

YAS ISLANDS GROUP. TOUSSAINT

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